

# ALLIED HEALTH JOB VACANCY TRACKING REPORT

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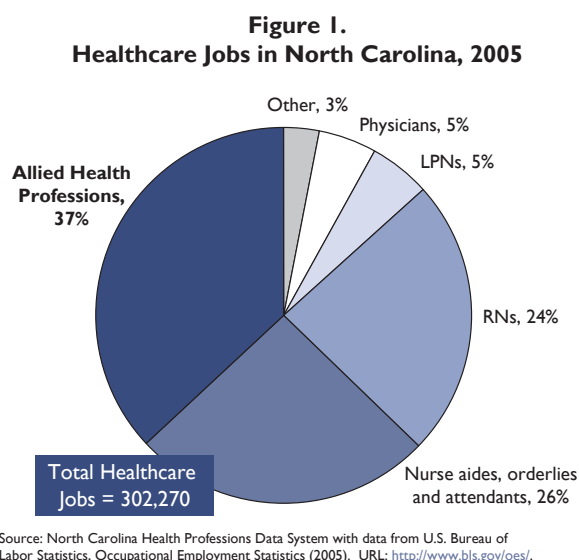
## Introduction

One of the primary goals of the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina (Council) is to provide policy makers with information about the supply and distribution of allied health professionals in the state. To help monitor trends in North Carolina's allied health workforce, the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research (Sheps Center), in collaboration with the Council and the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, conducts a biannual tracking of allied health job vacancies. The results of the most recent tracking project are summarized in this report.

## Why Should Policy Makers Care about The Allied Health Workforce?

There are many professions that are classified as "allied health." It is sometimes easier to think of the scope of allied health as all health care occupations except nurses, physicians, chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, and podiatrists. Even when nurse aides, orderlies and attendants are excluded from this definition, allied health jobs comprised 37% of total health care employment in North Carolina in 2005 (**Figure 1**).

Allied health jobs represent not only a large and increasingly important employment sector in the state, but also an engine for economic growth. Between 1999 and 2005, allied health employment in North Carolina grew by 46%. By contrast, total health care employment grew at less than half that rate (20%) and total employment in North Carolina increased just 0.2% (**Table 1**). Over 69% of the total job growth in the health care sector between 1999 and 2005 was due to growth of allied health jobs.



**Table 1. Total State, Health Care and Allied Health Employment, North Carolina, 1999-2005**

	1999	2005	% Growth (1999-2005)
Total NC Employment	3,801,670	3,809,690	0.2%
Health Care Jobs	251,550	302,270	20.2%
Allied Health Jobs	76,590	111,630	45.8%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Statistics.

State Cross-Industry Estimates: 1999-2005. URL: <http://www.bls.gov/oes/>. Accessed 06/28/2006.

*The Allied Health Vacancy Report is a collaborative effort of:  
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